

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2008

## **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2028**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES IN ARIZONA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1       Whereas, Arizona is home to twenty-two federally recognized American  
2 Indian tribes who have resided in Arizona since before the formation of the  
3 United States and the entry of the State of Arizona into the union; and

4       Whereas, the reserved land of these tribes comprises approximately  
5 twenty-eight per cent of Arizona's land base and, along with other American  
6 Indians, Arizona tribal members comprise approximately five per cent of  
7 Arizona's population; and

8       Whereas, tribal communities throughout Arizona contribute unique and  
9 significant cultural, historical and economic resources for all state  
10 residents; and

11      Whereas, the State of Arizona recognizes and supports the rights of  
12 these twenty-two tribal governments to exercise sovereign authority over  
13 their members and their territory; and

14      Whereas, these tribal members are citizens of Arizona with all of the  
15 rights and privileges afforded by Arizona to its citizens; and

16      Whereas, American Indian tribes are often overlooked in the complex  
17 system of federalism, leaving them unintentionally without services or  
18 funding or access to services and funding; and

19      Whereas, state legislatures are entering a new period of state  
20 federalism that stresses state recognition of its American Indian citizens  
21 and recognizes the responsibilities of states to tribes in the areas of the  
22 state's legitimate authority; and

23      Whereas, the legislature needs to ensure that state services and  
24 resources are available to all eligible state citizens residing in Arizona;  
25 and

26      Whereas, the effort expended by state boards and commissions intended  
27 to help boost the Arizona economy will be enhanced by Indian representation;  
28 and

29      Whereas, Arizona's tribes are deserving of a more vigorous effort on  
30 the part of the state to foster intergovernmental cooperation and appropriate  
31 state relationships with American Indian tribes in the state; and

32      Whereas, a spirit of cooperation should guide the continuing  
33 government-to-government relationships between the state of Arizona and the  
34 tribes that call Arizona home; and

35      Whereas, meaningful consultation with the Arizona's tribal leaders will  
36 facilitate better understanding and informed decision making between the  
37 Arizona's tribes and this state.

38 Therefore

39 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the  
40 Senate concurring:

41      1. That the Members of the Legislature recognize American Indians and  
42 accept the duties and obligations of the Legislature on behalf of all  
43 citizens.

1        2. That the Members of the Legislature encourage input from  
2 appropriate appointed tribal officials regarding legislative action or policy  
3 that may affect a tribal community or its members.

4        3. That the Members of the Legislature will work to include all  
5 eligible American Indian tribal community members who qualify for state  
6 services and resources to the same extent as all other eligible state  
7 citizens.

8        4. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies  
9 of this Resolution to each tribal nation located in the State of Arizona.